REMARKS

The Office Action has alleged that the above-referenced patent application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Assuming, for the moment, the Examiner's grouping and allocation of species is correct, the following table correlates the claims that are associated with each alleged species.

SPECIES	CORRESPONDING CLAIMS
Fig. 8	Claims 1,2 and 7
Fig. 10A	Claims 8 and 9
Fig. 11	Claims 1 and 3-7
Fig. 13	Claims 12-15
Fig. ?	Claim 6

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully disagrees with this species identification. Notwithstanding, Applicant elects the species of Fig. 8.

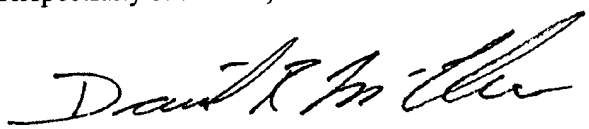
Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Figs. 8, 10A, and 11 show a common structure as defined by, for example, claim 1. In this regard, claim 1 recites at least one wavelength managing module (reference numeral 140 in Fig. 8, 150 in Fig. 10A, and 160 in Fig. 11), and at least uni-directional optical function module. A difference among Figs. 8, 10A and 11 relates to the uni-direction optical function module. For example, claim 2 defines the uni-direction optical function module as an optical amplifier module (reference numeral 142 of Fig. 8). Claim 9, together with claim 8, recites the uni-directional optical function module as an optical add/drop module (154 in Fig. 10A). Also, claim 3 recites that the uni-directional optical function module can be a chromatic dispersion compensator (164, 166 in Fig. 11, also recited in claim 4).

Therefore, since Figs. 8, 10A, and 11 have a basic common structure, Applicant respectfully submits that those three figures should be considered as a single patentable species. If so, claims 1-9 will correspond to this species of invention.

In addition, Fig. 13 shows that the uni-directional optical function module can be an uni-directional wavelength optical cross connector. Therefore, the basic structure in Fig. 13 also comprises at least one wavelength managing module and at least uni-directional optical function module. Claims 12-15 recite these features.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, should any fee be deemed payable, you are hereby authorized to debit our deposit account 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel R. McClure; Reg. No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500